IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A backlight being formed by combining a plurality of backlight units with respect to a lighting surface for illuminating a back of a video display unit formed by a single panel, said backlight characterized in that:

each of said backlight units comprises

a light source,

a light reflecting unit which reflects a light emitted from said light source into a predetermined direction, and

a light guide plate which directs said light incident thereon through said light reflecting unit to go out from said lighting surface; and

said backlight units are configured so that said light reflecting units arranged at one end of said light guide plate are formed to be combined in alternate directions.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A backlight characterized by being formed by combining a plurality of backlight units of different shapes, with respect to a lighting surface for illuminating a back of a video display unit formed by a single panel.

Claims 3-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A drive apparatus for a backlight formed by combining a plurality of backlight units, said drive apparatus characterized by comprising;

[[a]] drive ~~unit~~ units which [[is]] are provided for respective backlight unit and ~~performs~~ perform drive control of respective backlight unit, and

a drive control unit which performs drive control of said drive units; and said drive apparatus characterized in that;

said respective drive units and said drive control unit are connected in a daisy chain.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The drive apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 8, characterized in that:

said drive unit comprises a light quantity detector which detects light quantity of said light source, and a light quantity control unit which controls the light quantity of said light source to a predetermined level based on the result of said detected light quantity of said light quantity detector.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 10, characterized in that a plurality of said light quantity detectors are provided.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 8, characterized in that said drive unit is provided with a temperature sensor which detects a temperature of said light source.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 10, characterized in that:

said light quantity control unit controls light quantity of said light source to a predetermined level by varying a duty ratio of a drive voltage supplied to said light source based on the result of said detected light quantity of said light quantity detector.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 8, characterized in that:

said drive control unit generates and transmits an offset data which offsets the light quantity at said drive ~~unit~~ units, based on a light quantity data transmitted from said respective drive units.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 14, characterized in that:

said drive unit variably controls voltage level of a light source drive voltage supplied to said light source so that light quantity of said light source is set to be a predetermined level, based on said offset data transmitted from said drive control unit.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The drive control apparatus for the backlight as described in claim 14, characterized in that:

said drive unit variably controls current flowing through said light source so that light quantity of said light source is set to be a predetermined level, based on said offset data transmitted from said drive control unit.

Claims 17-18 (Canceled).